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PATENTAMENDMENT A (RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 03262005
(OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 6, 2005))REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this case. In the amendment hereinabove, claims 1, 8, 9 and 16 have been amended. Based upon the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that, in conformance with the foregoing amendment, these claims are allowable.

A. Claim Objection

Claim 9 was cited as objectionable for being an improper dependent claim. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The dependency of this claim has been corrected; it now correctly depends from claim 8.

B. §102 Rejection

Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Devecchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,918,399 ("*Devecchi et al.*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed and it is submitted that these claims, in conformance with the foregoing amendment, recite subject matter which is not anticipated by and is patentable over *Devecchi et al.*

Regarding independent claims 1, 8 and 16, contrary to the apparent assertions by the Examiner, *Devecchi et al.* neither discloses nor suggests a plurality of successively coupled differential amplifier circuits with successively coupled common mode control terminals. As the Examiner correctly notes, each of the amplifiers A1, A2 in Figure 6 of *Devecchi et al.* does have what appears to be an input common mode control terminal, i.e., "VCMC". However, nowhere in Figure 6, nor in its associated text, is it disclosed or suggested to also include an output common mode control terminal, much less an output common mode control terminal that is coupled to a downstream input common mode control terminal. As stated in paragraph 00017 of the present disclosure (with emphasis added): "As a

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result, it can be seen that the common mode control signal VCMO applied at the input amplifier stage S1 propagates through each amplifier stage S1, S2, S3 so as to control the common mode voltages for the input signal VI and the output signal VO, as well as for each of the intermediate, or interstage, signals /VI, //VI." In contrast to this, each amplifier A1, A2 in Figure 6 of *Devecchi et al.* is separately controlled by its own independent external control signal provided by an external "comparator circuit CC".

Regarding dependent claims 2 and 9, a reading of *Devecchi et al.* revealed no information as to the architecture or topology of the circuitry within the amplifiers A1, A2, including any express disclosure or suggestion of anything that may be fairly construed as "circuit branches". If the Examiner was able to find such disclosure or suggestion, it is respectfully requested that specific citations be provided.

Regarding dependent claims 3 and 10, it is respectfully submitted that *Devecchi et al.* offers no information concerning the architecture or topology of the circuitry within the amplifiers A1, A2, particularly "shared terminals" among "circuit branches".

Regarding dependent claims 4, 5 and 11, it is respectfully submitted that *Devecchi et al.* offers no information concerning the architecture or topology of the circuitry within the amplifiers A1, A2, particularly "telescopically coupled transistors", whether NMOS or CMOS.

C. Allowable Claims

Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 17 and 18 were cited as objectionable for being dependent upon rejected base claims but were identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. In accordance therewith, claims 6, 14 and 17 have been amended to appear in independent form by including all limitations of

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their respective base claims (claims 1, 8 and 16) and any intervening claims
(none). Hence, it is submitted that claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are allowable.

D. Conclusion

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this case. Based upon the foregoing
amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are
allowable, and reconsideration and early allowance of these claims are requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or
credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 22-0259.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 18, 2005 By: 

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